



**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** September 23, 2019

Dear Interested Forest User,

The North River Ranger District of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests is providing the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration Project (NSM Project) for an additional 30 day notice and comment period. An initial 30 day notice and comment period for the EA was held from August 16, 2019 to September 16, 2019. Due to inadvertent errors in how individuals were notified and a technical glitch with the system used for comment submissions, the District thought it prudent to provide the public an additional 30 day comment period. We value the input our publics provide and we wanted to ensure an all interested stakeholders have an equal opportunity to read, review and provide comments on the EA.

We want to thank everyone that provided comments on the EA this past month and during the initial scoping held in 2017. We also appreciate your continued involvement throughout the process at various public meetings. If you provided comments on the EA from August 16 to September 16 trust we have received your comments and will consider them. If you have no additional changes to your comments provided during that period there is no need for you to resubmit comments during this additional comment period.

The project proposes restoration actions on about 9,243 acres of the approximately 128,000-acre planning area located in Rockingham County, Virginia and Pendleton County, West Virginia. This project has been designed to move the existing conditions within the North River Ranger District towards desired conditions describe in the *2014 Revised Forest Plan for the George Washington National Forest* (Forest Plan). The Draft EA documents the site-specific analysis for implementing the proposed action, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

Information on the proposed action and associated analysis documents can be viewed online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50342>. These documents also are available for review at the district office in Harrisonburg, VA.

We welcome your involvement and encourage your review of and comments on this analysis. Specific comments on how to improve the proposal, what you prefer in other alternatives, or important things you think we missed in the alternatives, are very helpful. We can better respond to your comments if you are as specific as possible and if you cite the location(s) in the document of the section to which you are directing your comments. If you reference other



documents in your comments, please attach complete copies, or links to them. If complete copies are not available, please provide the cover page and applicable pages from them.

Substantive comments provide factual information, professional opinion, or informed judgment that is relevant to the action being proposed. Substantive comments are specific, comparative, or solution oriented. A substantive comment provides the reasons why and goes beyond just expressing an opinion. While all comments will be considered, substantive comments related to the alternatives are the most useful.

Comments may be submitted through the project comment page located here:

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=50342>.

Electronic comments may be uploaded as Microsoft Word documents (.doc or .docx), portable document files (.pdf), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), or hypertext markup language (.html) files. Comments may also be mailed to Mary Yonce, North River District Ranger, 401 Oakwood Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22802, or hand-delivered to the above address on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Please reference North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration and Management Project in the subject line.

Comments must be submitted by 30 days from the date of the legal notice published in the Harrisonburg *Daily News Record*. The first day is counted the day after the legal notice publishes. This notice is expected to be published on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, therefore the official comment period would initiate on Thursday September 26, 2019. Only those who submit timely and specific comments during one of the comment periods will be eligible to object. In order to file an objection, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Any individual or entity that provided timely, substantive, specific written comments during the scoping period held in 2017 or during one of the 30 day notice and comment periods from August 16 to September 16, 2019 or September 26 to October 25, 2019 will meet the eligibility to object.

Please contact Kevin Kyle, Zone Silviculturist, at (540) 984-4101 if you have questions concerning this project. Thank you for your continued interest in the management of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.

Sincerely,



Mary Yonce  
North River District Ranger